

command and with vigorous propulsion has infinite possibilities, particularly if it takes advantage of the situation to become radical in opinion.

THE POLITICO ⁴

The Filipino is a born politician. It has been said of him that he could give Tammany the aces in the pack and still win the game. The politician of politicians is President Manuel L. Quezon, who has repeatedly proved his right to the title of master politician, as he has outmaneuvered local adversaries and American Governors-General who proved themselves mere tyros in playing their hands, and has bested American representatives in Congress. The hole has never been so small that through it he could not squeeze to victory.

Just why the Filipinos should be good politicians no one has ever offered to explain. Certainly they possess natural talent which has been perfected by constant practice. Possibly this native aptitude for politics comes from the Oriental's predilection for intrigue, to which must be added an acquired blend of Spanish fire and audacity.

There are a variety of reasons why politics has come to have such a large place—some would add an unnecessarily large place—in the life of the people. In the first place, Philippine democracy is in its younger years. At such times the best brains are attracted to public office. Those whose activities in more normal years would be directed to agriculture and commerce are inevitably drawn into the maelstrom of politics. This phenomenon has been observed in the early

history of other countries. It has been particularly evident in the development of self-government in the Philippines.

In the second place, the Philippine Government is in nature paternalistic. It is customary for the people to look to the Government not only for redress of grievances but for

*** *Politico* is the Spanish for "politician."**